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U. S. Corporate Profits Soar Despite Sagging Economy

The economic slowdown since midyear apparently had little effect on corporate profits as American businesses report solid earnings in the July-September quarter.

A Wall Street Journal survey of 510 major companies estimated that third-quarter earnings increased 17 percent from a year earlier. A Citibank survey of 1,448 companies found their profits were up 14 percent in the period.

The percentage increases are below those of the year's first quarter (41 percent) and second quarter (33 percent) but the comparisons in those periods were made with the sharply depressed levels of last year's first half.

A third survey, U.S. News & World Report's study of 1,360 company earnings reports, found that gains were

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Child Labor Law Violators Fined \$153,950 in 10 Months

California employers were fined \$153,950 for violating California's child labor laws during the first 10 months of this year, according to a report issued by the state Labor Commissioner this week.

The report said that most of the child labor violations occurred in restaurants and take-out food establishments where many young people are employed.

It said that 113 employers were assessed penalties of \$1000 or more for letting youths

Studies Puncture Myth That Jobless Are 'Chiselers'

The claim often asserted by conservative politicians and newspaper editors that many jobless workers are "chiselers" who "ride with the system" at government expense and take jobs only when their benefits run out has been repudiated by two new studies that found that the overwhelming number of long-term unemployed workers remain jobless and looking for work long after their benefits are exhausted.

Studies made by the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Research Division and by Mathematica Policy Research of Princeton, N.J., both found that the overwhelming majority of those who had exhausted their jobless benefits

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under 18 work in hazardous circumstances.

Another 276 employers were assessed \$100 or more in penalties for permitting youngsters to work without permits from their school authorities.

Nearly all of the employers who received penalties of \$1,000 or more required or permitted youths under 18 years of age

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CFC to Push for Natl. Health Care and Interest Rate Curb

Strong support for a national health care program like the Kennedy-Corman bill was voiced by the Consumer Federation of California at its convention at the TowneHouse Hotel in San Francisco last Saturday, Nov. 13.

The convention, which attracted scores of consumer activists from throughout the state, adopted 14 resolutions aimed at correcting longstanding abuses in the consumer field, elected new officers and heard an address by San Fran-

cisco District Attorney Joseph Freitas who stressed the need for enactment of "more far-reaching consumer protection laws."

Freitas emphasized that the losses to consumers through illegal business practices far outweigh losses due to larceny and other street crimes and declared that there is a "great necessity" to awaken the people to the need to support such groups as the Consumer Federation of California.

Freitas also said that a con-

sumer complaint resolution process using volunteer law students has been set up in the D.A.'s office to handle consumer complaints.

About 1,000 such complaints a month are presently being handled by these volunteers who seek to resolve the complaints without resort to legal action.

Nearly 85 percent of the complaints received are resolved without court action, he said, declaring that this has resulted in "a major consumer program of great benefit to the people of San Francisco at no cost to the taxpayer."

Efforts are currently underway to put together a consumer complaint mobile program to enable individuals to file complaints in their own neighborhood without making a trip to the Hall of Justice, he added.

Richard Spohn, director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, told the delegates that the DCA was given many new responsibilities under legislation enacted in 1970 but that these responsibilities were not implemented during the Reagan Administration.

Since Governor Brown's election, Spohn said, there has been "a radical change," noting that the budget for consumer advocacy and consumer representation has been doubled and that Brown Administration - sponsored legislation that goes into effect next January will require the appointment of about 100 new people to serve on some 40 boards, bureaus and commissions that have an impact on consumer

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Garment Industry Case

Court Upholds Fed-Backed Law Banning 'Homework'

The constitutionality of California AFL-CIO-backed legislation enacted in 1975 which outlaws industrial homework in the garment industry in California has been upheld by a Los Angeles municipal court.

Judge Michael T. Sauer denied a motion for a demurrer filed in behalf of Los Angeles garment manufacturer Sol Kishineff, who does business under the name of Supreme Garment, Inc.

The judge ruled that state law may prohibit an employer from negligently allowing clothing articles owned by him to be worked on by industrial homeworkers.

Earlier this year, charges of employing industrial homeworkers illegally were filed against Kishineff and he was arraigned on September 14.

Kishineff's trial is presently set to open today in Los Angeles. If convicted, he faces possible fines of up to \$1,000 and 30 days in jail.

The charges against Kishineff are the result of an investigation of working conditions in the Los Angeles garment industry launched by the State Labor Commissioner last May.

To date, the investigation has resulted in the filing of criminal charges against 16 firms, including Supreme Garment, Inc.

Eleven firms have been fined and placed on probation.

Cases against five firms are still pending and the probe is continuing against additional garment manufacturers involved in alleged violations.

A task force from the Labor

Standards Enforcement Division of the State Department of Industrial Relations, which conducted the probe, uncovered 651 labor law violations, including 122 violations of industrial homework laws earlier this year.

More than 8,000 items of wearing apparel illegally manufactured at home were confiscated by the task force of Deputy Labor Commissioners and special investigators.

While homework is banned in the garment industry, employers in industries where homework is allowed must pay license fees of \$100 a year for each industrial homeworker.

The industrial homeworkers themselves are required to pay permit fees of \$25 per year but this fee may be waived in cases of financial hardship.

Ruling Upholds Workers' Time Off Voting Right

An employer cannot require an employee to demonstrate a need to take up to two hours off to vote.

That was the ruling in an arbitration decision recently won by East Bay Regional Parks Local 2428 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, in Berkeley in a dispute with the East Bay Regional Park District over Section 14400 of the State Election Code — the time off to vote provision.

The question submitted to arbitrator Joseph R. Grodin was:

"Under California Election Code Section 14400, may the district require its employees to demonstrate a need for time off in order to vote."

The disputed section of the law provides that:

"If a voter does not have sufficient time outside of his working hours within which to vote at any general direct primary or presidential primary election, he may, without loss of pay, take off so much working time as will, when added to his voting time outside his working hours, enable him to vote."

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Response to Political Audit Confirmation Bids Is Voluntary

Response to the audit confirmation requests sent out by the State Franchise Tax Board's Political Reform Audit Unit as a follow-up to the audit program established by the Political Reform Act (Proposition 9) enacted in June 1974 is "strictly voluntary."

That was the word received last week by John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, from Daniel H. Lowenstein, chairman of the State Fair Political Practices Commission.

Henning had written to the FPPC after a number of Federation affiliates had inquired about communications received

from the State Franchise Tax Board requesting that they verify contributions made to the California Labor Federation.

In his letter to Lowenstein, Henning noted that "in accordance with requirements of the law, an audit has been conducted on the activities of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, under the Political Reform Audit Program" and pointed out that:

"Many of our affiliates are small organizations with no permanent staff and they are concerned at the expense and complexity of complying with the request because of the necessary detail and breakdown."

Henning also said that the Federation had been advised that the FPPC's Special Compliance Representative, J. Richard Eichmann, had issued written advice stating that "response to the confirmation letters is voluntary and one need not respond if they so chose."

Henning's letter to Lowenstein was to confirm the correctness of that statement.

In response, Lowenstein said: "As you know, political reform audits are conducted by the Franchise Tax Board, not by the Fair Political Practices Commission. Nevertheless, we have been concerned that the methods of carrying on the au-

dits not discourage participation in the political process or unnecessarily burden campaign organizations. I have had several meetings on the subject with Martin Huff, the director of the Franchise Tax Board, and he has assured me that he agrees that response to the audit confirmation letters is strictly voluntary."

Contributions made to the California Labor Federation are made through per capita tax payments in the total sum of 15 cents per member per month of which only five cents deals with the activities of the Federation's Committee on Political Education.

Oswald Named To Head AFL-CIO Research Dept.

AFL-CIO President George Meany has appointed Rudolph A. Oswald as director of the federation's Department of Research.

Oswald, 44, has been acting director of the department since May. He succeeds the late Nat Goldfinger, who died on July 22 after a lengthy illness.

Oswald began his career in the labor movement in 1958 as an intern in the AFL-CIO Dept. of Research. He served as research and education director of the Fire Fighters from 1959 to 1963, when he became an AFL-CIO staff economist.

In 1972, he became director of research for the Service Employees and in 1975 rejoined the AFL-CIO as assistant director of education.

Oswald has served as chairman of the Labor Research Advisory Committees to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Office of Management & Budget.

He has been a member of the Federal Employees Pay Council, the American Statistical Association Advisory Committee to the Bureau of the Census, and the board of directors of the National Industries for the Blind.

New Studies Puncture Claims That Jobless Are 'Chiselers'

(Continued from Page 1) were still unemployed—and actively seeking work—a year after their benefits were terminated.

Roger Rossi, who directs the Labor Department's Unemployment Insurance Research Division, said that the studies provide the first information about who the long-term unemployed are and what happens to them.

Labor Department figures indicate that more than 2.7 million U.S. workers exhausted their benefits between January 1975 and July 1976.

Since the government does not keep records on individuals no longer entitled to benefits, no data are available on the actual number of workers who found jobs or dropped out of the labor force.

But both studies found that most workers were still looking for work several weeks after their benefits ran out.

The Labor Department's study, which was based on surveys in California, Missouri, Nevada, New York and Wisconsin, that found that 80 percent of those surveyed were still in the labor force two months after their benefits were exhausted but that only 16 percent had found jobs.

The MPR study found that about 25 percent of workers who had exhausted their benefits were working within four

Canada's Jobless Rate Rises to 7.6%

Canada's unemployment rate rose three-tenths of 1 percent to a seasonally adjusted 7.6 percent last month, Statistics Canada announced.

The jobless rate for men increased by 2 percent to 13.3 percent for men between the ages of 15 and 24 over the month and by six-tenths of 1 percent to 4.9 percent for men 25 years and over.

For women in the over 25-age group, the jobless rate declined nine-tenths of 1 percent to 6.9 percent. The rate for women aged 15 to 24 slid two-tenths of 1 percent to 12.6 percent.

Union Wins Ruling Upholding Workers' Voting Time Right

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"An employee may take off so much time as will enable him to vote, but not more than two hours of which shall be without loss of pay; provided, that he shall be allowed time off for voting only at the beginning or end of his regular working shift, whichever allows him the most free time for voting and least time off from his regular working shift, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

'NOTICE' PROVISION

"If the employee on the third working day prior to the day of election, knows or has reason to believe that he will need time off to enable him to vote on election day, he shall give his employer at least two working days' notice that he desires time off in accordance with the provisions of this section."

Noting that the specific question at issue was "whether Section 14400 permits the District to require its employees to demonstrate a need in order to take time off to vote," Grodin said:

"An affirmative answer to this question would permit the District to condition the exercise by an employee of rights

under Section 14400 upon a requirement that is not imposed by the statute itself. The only requirement imposed by the statute by way of notice to the employer is contained in the third paragraph; and it in no way requires the employee to explain, much less 'demonstrate', the nature of his need. 'Failure of the legislature to specify any requirement that an employee justify his need for time off to his employer does not appear to be accidental. Rather it appears to reflect a legislative judgment that the free exercise of the franchise should not be subject to the chilling effect which could occur if an employer were permitted to inquire into the personal factors which underly an employee's determination of need, and to evaluate the employee's claim on the basis of criteria which would of necessity be subjective and therefore likely to vary from employer to employer.'

CHILLING EFFECT CITED

Grodin also noted that: "The chilling effect of such a procedure on voting rights sought to be protected by the statute is particularly ominous in view of the lack of meaning-

months after their benefits were terminated and that only 36 percent had found jobs within one year after the termination of their benefits.

"The low re-employment

rate and the low incidence of labor force withdrawal shortly after exhaustion do not support the hypothesis that long-term beneficiaries 'ride with the system' and then immediately

take jobs or leave the labor force," the Labor Department study said.

The MPR study was based on samples taken in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago and Seattle.

Here's California AFL-CIO's 'We Don't Patronize' List

The following firms are currently on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Firms are placed on the list in response to written requests from affiliates and only after approval by the Executive Council.

All trade unionists and friends of organized labor are urged not to patronize firms listed here.

Affiliates involved are urged to inform the Federation of any future contract settlements or other developments that would warrant the removal of any of these anti-union firms from the Federation's list.

Unfair firms are:

Broadway Theatre, 4th and Broadway, Santa Ana.

Gaffers & Sattler products

Hertzka and Knowles, San Francisco architects.

Kindair Theater Corporation, operators of the following anti-union theaters in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties;

Cinema 70 in Monterey; Steinbeck Theater in Monterey; Valley Cinema in Carmel Valley; Globe Theater in Salinas; Cinema Theater in Soquel; and, Twin I & II in Aptos.

Marriott's Great American Theme Park and Hotel, Santa Clara.

Montgomery Ward in Redding.

Newporter Inn, Newport Beach

Norm's Restaurant at the following locations in the Los Angeles area:

1270 South Crenshaw, Los Angeles;

2500 East Slauson Ave., Huntington Park;

2890 South La Cienega Blvd., Culver City;

8500 South Figueroa, St., Los Angeles;

4700 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles;

270 North La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles;

6353 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles; 13636 Sherman Way, Van Nuys.

Other Norm's Restaurants in Los Angeles County excluding the eight listed above are in good standing with organized labor.

• • •

Pemko Mfg. Co., Emeryville, Calif.

• • •

R & G Sloane Mfg. Co., 7608 Clybourne Ave., Sun Valley, Calif.

• • •

Red Lion Motor Inn, 2001 West Point Way, Sacramento.

• • •

San Rafael Independent Journal.

• • •

Sea World, San Diego

• • •

The following San Diego area motels:

Bahia Motel and Motor Lodge, Catamaran Motor Hotel and Restaurant.

• • •

The following: Queen Mary — Specialty Restaurants in Long Beach:

The Lord Nelson Room

The Lady Hamilton

Sir Winston Churchill's

The Verandah Grill

All banquets and fast food stands.

ful redress in the event an employee is told by his employer that he has failed to 'demonstrate' his need to take time off. If the employee is instructed to work rather than take time off, he may risk disciplinary action if he leaves work to vote. The possibility of injunctive relief prior to the election, if not absolutely precluded by considerations of time, would be effectively precluded in most cases by considerations of expense. And the right to sue after the fact for collection of two hours pay, with all the time, expense, and antagonism such a procedure may entail, is hardly a realistic remedy.

ALTERNATIVES NOTED

"The alternatives available to an employee whose 'demonstration' is rejected by his employer, therefore, are not compatible with the legislative purpose," he declared.

The 14-page arbitration decision also noted that the California Superior Court declared in 1966 that "every reasonable presumption and interpretation is to be indulged in favor of the right of the people to exercise the elective process."

The right of employees of private employers to take time

Fire Fighters' Death Toll Highest in U. S.

Fire fighters continue to hold the highest risk jobs in the nation as their occupational death rate soared to 90 per 100,000 in 1975, the Fire Fighters union reported.

The IAFF said that a study based on death and injury reports from local fire departments showed that 108 fire fighters were killed in the line of duty last year—eight more than in 1974 and 18 more than in 1973.

In addition to the IAFF members killed on the job, fire fighters last year suffered 88 deaths from occupational disease. Of these, the IAFF said, 82 percent died from heart disease, 11 percent from lung disease and the remainder from other causes.

off to vote in elections was first established by California law in 1891 when the state's political code was amended to provide that:

"Any person entitled to vote at a general election held within this state shall, on the day of the election, be entitled to absent himself from any service or employment in which he is then engaged or employed, for the period of two consecutive hours between the time of opening and the time of closing the polls; and such voters shall not, because of so absenting himself, be liable to any penalty, nor shall any deduction be made on account of such absence from his usual salary or wages."

In conclusion, Grodin declared:

"Under California Election Code Section 14400, the District may not require its employees to demonstrate a need for time off in order to vote."

Hearings Set on Revisions in Safety Orders

A public hearing on proposed changes in Title 8 of the California Administrative Code will be held by the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board in Sacramento next month.

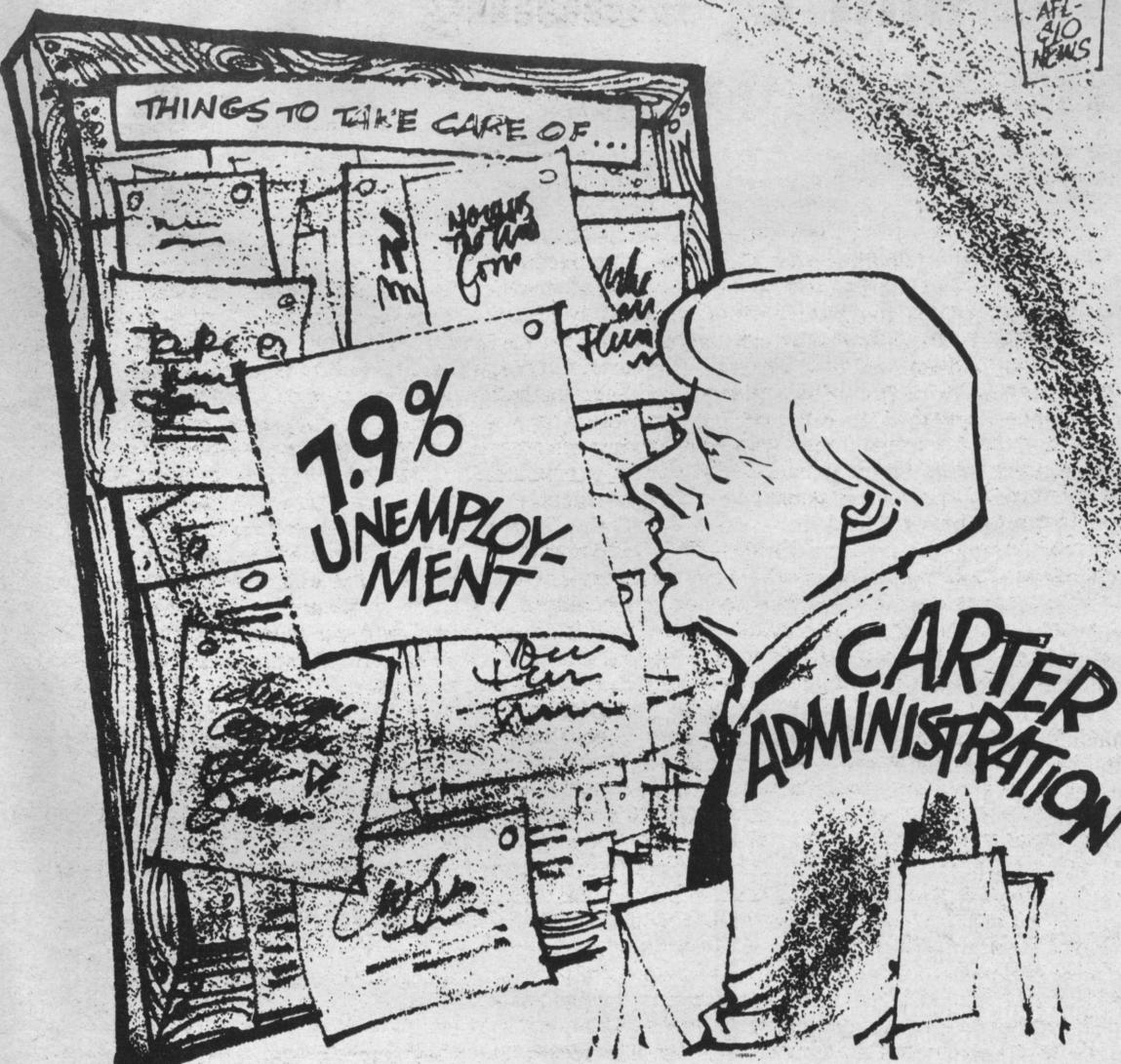
The hearing, to be held in the auditorium of the State Resources Building at 1416 Ninth Street in Sacramento starting at 10 a.m., will deal with proposed revisions in General Industry Safety Orders relating to: the operation of elevating work platforms; the manufacture of explosives and fireworks; and the guarding of V-belt and pulley drives as well as the addition of an exception of industrial sewing machines and guarding requirements for industrial sewing machines and cloth cutters.

Copies of the proposed changes are available from the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board office at 1006 4th Street, 3rd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Interested parties may present statements or arguments orally or in writing regarding the proposed changes.

Written comments should be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the December 15 hearing date.

If necessary, the Board will hear further testimony on the proposed revisions on January 27, 1977 in Room 1138 in the State Building at 107 South Broadway in Los Angeles starting at 10 a.m.



Fast Action Vital to Cope With Jobs Crisis, Labor Says

The worsening employment situation throughout the nation, when combined with the disclosure that wholesale prices jumped sharply in October for the second straight month, proves two things, AFL-CIO President George Meany observed last week in commenting on the rise in the U.S. jobless rate to 7.9 percent.

• "Obviously, President-Carter was right in declaring that America's economic mess was the nation's No. 1 problem.

• "The voters were right in choosing leaders who promised to move swiftly to put America back to work."

Meany said that Carter and the new Congress that will convene in January "will have to move fast for the economic mess is obviously growing worse almost daily."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, reporting on joblessness in October, said that 7,569,000 workers were unemployed in a workforce of 95,342,000. The number of persons holding jobs was 87,773,000, a drop of 46,000 from the September level.

The October workforce represented an increase of 139,000 over the previous month while

the number of unemployed was 185,000 higher than the September level.

The employment situation has now remained unchanged the past four months.

BLS Commissioner Julius Shiskin, appearing before the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, said the October figures were part of a pattern of economic "sluggishness" borne out by other recent reports.

He cited reports of small rises in real gross national product, declines in the government's index of leading economic indicators, and others.

Meany said that "true unemployment" is much higher than the level claimed in the official government report.

When the number of "discouraged" and involuntary part-time workers is factored in, he said, there are 10.3 million people, or 10.7 percent of the workforce, without jobs.

The most worrisome aspect of the BLS report was an increase in joblessness among adult men from 6.1 to 6.3 percent, the highest level of the year. All of the increase was reported for workers in the 20-24 age bracket, whose rate jumped to 13 percent from 11 percent.

The rate for young women in the 20-24 age bracket rose as well, from 11.4 to 12.5 percent.

The jobless rate for black persons increased from 12.7 to 13.5 percent from September to October and for whites from 7.1 to 7.3 percent.

The rate for teenagers rose from 12.7 to 13.5 percent over the month.

Reflecting the softness of the economy, the number of persons holding jobs declined in October for the second month in a row. A total of 208,000 jobs has been lost since August.

Manufacturing employment moved down by 145,000 to 19 million in October. The decline occurred mostly in the durable goods sector. Job losses were

posted in the transportation equipment industry, in metals, machinery, textile, apparel, paper products, and public utilities.

The number of persons forced to work part-time because full-time jobs were not available increased by 21,000 to 3,469,000 last month, the highest level since last January.

The October report on employment also noted an increase in long-term joblessness. The number of workers unemployed 27 weeks or longer in October rose by 73,000 to 1,264,000 over the month, and represented 16.4 percent of the total unemployed.

The average duration of unemployment was 15.4 weeks, the same as in September.

In his appearance before the congressional Joint Economic Committee, Shiskin declared the latest figures "do not present a very happy picture," and said the current labor market could be termed a "standstill situation."

LABOR'S 7-POINT PLAN

Action Urged to Break Cycle Of Dependency on Welfare

A seven-point program to "break the cycle of welfare dependency and develop a humane welfare system" was proposed by California AFL-CIO trade unionists participating in the California Labor Federation's recent biennial convention in Sacramento.

"Only the federal government can establish the programs and policies necessary" to cope with the nation's welfare problem, a policy statement on Welfare approved by the delegates said.

The nation's welfare program "should not involve demeaning means tests or be administered in a manner that encourages in-

Union's Claim For Race & Sex Data Is Upheld

A National Labor Relations Board administrative law judge ordered General Motors to hand over to the Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers three categories of information "relevant to possible race or sex discrimination or to the advancement of equal opportunity" at five GM plants where the IUE represents some 30,000 workers.

The union had sought the information since 1973. Judge Bernard Ries ruled that GM's refusal to provide the information to the IUE constitutes a refusal to bargain in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

The information includes copies of affirmative action programs worked out with the Defense Dept.; copies of charges, decisions, and status reports on charges in courts and government agencies involving alleged discrimination by GM because of race, sex, religion, national origin or color; and various information concerning the workforce, hiring, promotions, pay rates, and classifications broken down by race and sex as far back as 1970.

Ries' ruling involves members of IUE Locals in New Brunswick, N.J.; Rochester, N.Y.; Warren, Ohio; and Dayton, Ohio.

Four of the plants involved produce auto parts, and the fifth makes appliances. Ries is the second NLRB judge this year to order a major corporation to provide the IUE with such information.

The union said it needs the race and sex information to do its job in enforcing its contracts and protecting members against unlawful discrimination.

Last February, NLRB Judge Marvin Roth ruled for the union in a case against Westinghouse.

While Ries stipulated that GM could delete certain confidential business information and information related to employees not represented by the IUE, he came down strongly on the side of disclosure of the affirmative action program.

The judge dismissed GM's argument that the Executive Order requiring the program implies confidentiality. In fact, Ries observed, the federal government's compliance manual calls for union participation in "developing and implementing" the program.

AN ELECTION BONUS

Attacks on Public Workers May Decline Now

Public employees and their union leaders should feel hopeful that the "dark days of scapegoating" government workers will be ending as a result of Jimmy Carter's election as president of the United States, the President of the AFL-CIO Public Employee Department said this week.

"With Jimmy Carter in the White House for the next four years, and a Democratically controlled Congress, this nation's 15 million public employees have reason to be hopeful they will receive the same protections of federal law granted other American workers," PED President W. Howard McClellan said.

PLEDGES CITED

"The Carter Administration should bring to an end the dark days of scapegoating public employees," he said.

"I have received personal assurances from President-elect Carter that he will support the enactment of a national collective bargaining law for state and local government workers, and liberalization of the Hatch Act, which currently limits the political participation of federal service employees," he pointed out.

PAY COMPARABILITY

McClellan added Carter has stated complete endorsement of "the principle of pay comparability" for federal white-collar workers, and said all federal employee unions should expect fair play under Carter's leadership.

He also pointed out the Democratic platform is committed to action on many other PED legislative objectives, such as increased federal aid to education, development of a national urban policy, reform of welfare programs and a restructuring of the tax system.

BASIS FOR SUPPORT

"Organized labor provided all-out support to the Carter-Mondale candidacies on the basis of their endorsement of these programs, and many others," said McClellan.

"I think the Carter presidency will set a tone of more efficient government through improved labor-management relations in the public sector," he added.

Twenty-nine unions, with a combined membership of 1.8 million workers in federal, state and local government, and the United States Postal Service, are affiliated with PED.

dividuals to abandon their husbands or wives and children," it stressed.

Specifically the delegates urged:

- 1—Federal policies to spur economic growth and expand job training;
- 2—Federally financed child care centers;
- 3—A guaranteed minimum income, regardless of residence, above the poverty level, which is currently \$5,500 for a family of four;
- 4—Food stamps for any one in need, including strikers;
- 5—Health, counseling, rehabilitation and other necessary services;
- 6—Extension of the federal stamp program to include U.S.-made clothing at discount prices for the needy. This would alleviate hardship among the unemployed and working poor as well as help move surplus goods to market and stimulate the textile and garment industries, the statement noted.
- 7—Official and voluntary efforts to provide motivation and guidance to those on welfare.

CFC to Push for Natl. Health Care and Interest Rate Curb

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interests. The new legislation requires that such agencies be comprised of a majority of consumers.

Spohn said that the help of the CFC will be needed in making recommendations for these appointments.

Asserting that "business cannot be counted on to help the consumer," Spohn said that "in the final analysis, the individual consumer, organized collectively, is really the last and best line of defense in consumer matters."

MUST ACT COLLECTIVELY

"The individual consumer must act collectively in the field of consumer affairs," he said.

He also appealed to the CFC to support legislation to be introduced next year to give the director of the department co-equal power in the hiring and firing of the executive officers of such consumer-related boards and commissions.

In opening remarks to the convention, outgoing CFC President Frank Damrell Jr. said that the November 2 general election resulted in major positive changes in both the national administration, Congress and the State legislature.

The CFC "must take full advantage of the unique opportunity for the passage of consumer legislation which 1977 will afford," he said.

IMPACT ON ELDERLY

James G. Patton, field representative of the National Council of Senior Citizens and Director of the California Labor Federation's Retired Members Department, stressed the community of interests that exists between consumer groups and senior citizen's groups, noting that many senior citizens are among the poorest people in the nation because they are obliged to rely solely on social security benefits.

"Any legislation that helps curb price gouging, reduces the interest rates on retail sales contracts or requires clarity in price marking or advertising benefits senior citizens because it has the effect of expanding their limited purchasing power," Patton said.

In adopting the resolution calling for enactment of a national health security act, the delegates pointed out that about 40 million Americans "are not covered by any health care insurance for surgery or hospitalization and over six million who live below the poverty income level are not covered even by Medicaid."

The resolution charged that "slick public relations for associations of private, profit-oriented health care practitioners have perpetuated the myth of an unrealistic superiority of health care service delivery in the United States."

The health care resolution,

which was adopted unanimously, also noted that "only 40 percent of low-income full-time American workers have any health care protection at all and less than 30 percent of workers losing their jobs are able to keep health care insurance," a factor that leaves them "vulnerable to the punishing costs of medical and hospital care," the resolution said.

It urged support for the Health Security Act measure authored by Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative James Corman (S. 3 and H. R. 21) in the 94th Congress to provide universal, comprehensive health care protection for all Americans.

The resolution pledged the CFC and its members to do "everything within their power to generate affirmative support in the new Congress and the new Carter Administration for enactment of the Health Security Act as conceptualized in the Kennedy-Corman bill."

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

Other resolutions approved by the delegates called for:

✓ State legislative action to limit credit rates charged on revolving charge accounts to 12 percent true interest per annum;

✓ Action, including the support of severe penalties, to curb false and misleading advertising by requiring that merchandise labels show ingredients, nutritional values, expiration dates beyond which usefulness or effectiveness ceases, durability, unit pricing and other measures to help the buyer secure full value for money expended;

✓ Support for legislation to permit class action suits to let mistreated and cheated consumers sue for redress as a group in behalf of all injured parties, known and unknown, rather than forcing them to seek relief as isolated individuals.

✓ Legislation and judicial action to eliminate the dual jeopardy involved in so-called "deficiency judgments" in California. Under existing law, sellers of motor vehicles are presently allowed not only to repossess a vehicle from a buyer who fails to keep up the payments but is allowed to hold the purchaser liable for the balance between the resale price and the remaining debt.

✓ Legislation to provide low-cost group legal services to deal with consumer matters in view of the fact that many consumers are denied economic and judicial justice because the monetary value of the transaction is vastly exceeded by the legal costs that would be involved in seeking redress of the grievance.

✓ Support for action to permit the marketing of group casualty insurance.

✓ Support for legislation to place petroleum pipeline corporations under the supervision of the California State Public Utilities Commission as "common carriers." The CFC described this as one step of many needed to achieve adequate control in this field to insure fairness to the ultimate consumer.

✓ Support for legislation to bar retailers from charging interest on any portion of any outstanding debt within the billing period of the statement rendered.

✓ Support for rent controls wherever local conditions require them "as a necessary social and economic policy tool" to regulate speculation in the housing rental market and curb the effects "of soaring rental prices upon low and middle income consumers."

✓ Enactment of legislation to require that each item of commerce sold in stores catering to the general public be clearly and plainly marked so that shoppers can comprehend the price of the individual item. It urged that such legislation not be inhibited by time limit constraints. The State's existing price-marking law is scheduled to expire early next year unless the legislature extends it.

✓ Congressional action to enact strong mortgage loan disclosure legislation to enforce laws and regulations against "the nefarious practice of 'redlining'" along with action to revise regressive tax structures which "presently inhibit the construction of new units and the rehabilitation of existing units in our housing-hungry urban areas." This resolution also calls for local government and non-profit organizational assistance in the construction of low-cost, low-profit housing.

ECONOMIC BALANCE

The delegates also adopted a resolution on "Environmental and Economic Balance" which pledged the Federation to adhere to the time-honored progressive principles of sound conservation and orderly, controlled development of our nation's resources for the benefit of all, rather than for the exclusive pleasure of the few.

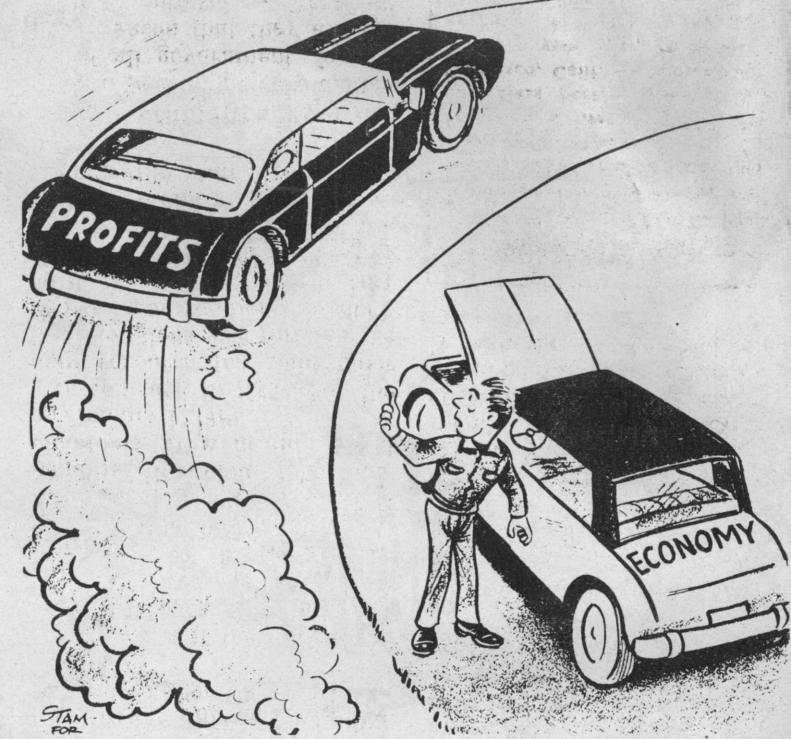
This resolution also urged that "the economic well-being of people be given primary consideration in contemplating a balanced and orderly development of the total environment in which we dwell."

The Federation's Policy Board presented a series of amendments to the CFC's by-laws which, among other things boosted the dues for regular individual membership in the CFC to \$10 a year. The dues for regular organizational members whose organizations include less than 250 members remain at \$25 a year.

The rates for organizations with between 250 and 500 members were pegged at \$50 a year; those with 500 to 750 members at \$75 a year; and organizations with more than 750 members at \$100 a year.

Jackie Walsh, the CFC's treasurer, voiced the CFC's appreciation for the support given to it by the California AFL-CIO.

Delegates to the California AFL-CIO's 11th convention in Sacramento earlier this year adopted a resolution calling for full support of the CFC by Federation affiliates.



'He Didn't Even Slow Down!'

U.S. Corporate Profits Soar Despite Sagging Economy

(Continued from Page 1)
widespread. Only tobacco and rubber companies recorded overall declines from last year.

Of the 1,360 individual firms surveyed by the publication's economic unit, 1,058 reported higher earnings than in last year's third quarter while only 302 reported lower earnings.

According to the Journal, analysts expect this year's profits to rise 30 percent over last year's.

Among auto manufacturers, General Motors was a big winner in the July-September quarter, reporting after-tax earnings of \$397 million, up 63 percent from the same quarter last year. Petroleum companies generally scored well, as did paper companies, glass, lumber, cement and insulation firms, and utilities.

Individual companies with outstanding third-quarter profits included Republic Steel, up 132 percent; Allis-Chalmers, up 113 percent; Westinghouse, up 61 percent; American Airlines, up 289 percent; Burlington Industries, up 81 percent, and the Chessie System, up 105 percent.

Child Labor Law Violators Fined \$153,950 in 10 Months

(Continued from Page 1)
youngsters 12 to 17 years of age:

• Cannot work between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on school days or from 12:30 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. on weekends;

• Cannot work more than four hours on school days;

• Must be paid the state minimum wage for minors of \$2.15 an hour;

• Cannot be employed operating any automobile, motor car, or truck; or in or about a gasoline service station; or in certain specific hazardous occupations; or in any occupation that is dangerous to the life or limb, or injurious to the health or morals of a child; and,

• Must have a work permit from their school authorities.

The 59-fold increase in penalties levied against California employers for child labor violations during the first 10 months of 1976 is expected to encourage California employers to comply more scrupulously with the state's child labor laws.

Publisher's Notice

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Calif. Consumers Group Elects New Officers and Policy Board

(Continued from Page 1)
national organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, as Treasurer.

In addition, the delegates approved an amendment to the CFC's bylaws creating a 24-member policy board to serve two-year, overlapping terms.

Elected to the policy board were: Roy Alper; C. Annette

Bassett; Joe Belardi; Dina Beaumont; Steven Brown; Frank Damrell, Jr.; Barbara Erickson; Bernice Gordon; Michele Jones; Jerry Kresy; Robert Medina; Max Mont; Versia Metcalf; Barbara Nardella; Kay Patchner; James R. Patton; Michael Peevey; Harold Shean; Mary Solow; Ted Reed; R. R. Richardson; Jerry Ver-cruise; Keegan Watson; and Eric Wright.

Government's Basis

"The workingmen are the basis of all government, for the plain reason that they are the most numerous." — Abraham Lincoln, February 21, 1861.